**Request from Indian Leather Productsm Association to reserve Cargo Space in International Airlines for Leather Products**

1704. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Leather Products Association has urged Government to make it mandatory for international airlines to reserve cargo space for leather products;

(b) whether it is a fact that the exports of leather products would have been 40 percent higher, had there been adequate freight services;

(c) whether Rs. 2 crores worth of leather products are help up due to flight cancellations; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide Jumbo freight carrier for clearing leather products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) It is reported that the Indian Leather Products Association has, in a Press Release, urged the Government to arrange for reservation of air cargo space for exports. However, no specific representation in this regard has been received by Government. Within the guidelines laid down by the Government, the foreign airlines basically operate on commercial considerations and a system of cargo reservation for any particular product sector does not exist.

(b) and (c) Exporters have pointed out to difficulties in securing air cargo space during the peak season. There has been a baklog in movement of cargo upto varying levels at the different airports in the country. However, no specific instances of loss of export opportunities or of cancellation of export orders has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(d) Air India and foreign airlines are utilising Jumbo aircraft for clearing export consignments including those of leather. Air India has also mounted additional freighters on an ad-hoc basis from April, 1990, to augment the clearance capacity for export cargo including leather and leather products.

**Import of Life Saving Medical Equipments**

1705. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new import policy relating to life saving medical equipments requiring importers to obtain eligibility certificates for having adequate after-sales service facilities, has resulted in an acute shortage of life saving medical equipments in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) and (b) In order to ensure that there is no difficulty in obtaining eligibility certificate for import of life saving medical equipment, the Chief Medical Officer or Civil Surgeon of a District and the Chief Medical Superintendent of the hospital attached to any recognised medical college have also been notified on the 11th April, 1990 as designated agencies for the purpose of grant of certificate of eligibility for import under Open General Licence of life saving equipment and their spares.

**Staff position in JCCIE, Madras**

1706. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints were made about the rampant corruption in the Office of JCCIE, Madras at a